

Special Education Advisory Panel Annual Report 2011-2012

June 2012

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that states establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of advising the State Department of Education special education staff regarding the education of eligible children with disabilities.

This panel, known as the Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), is comprised of members appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Panel members are representative of Idaho's population and are individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities. As mandated by federal law, the majority of Panel members are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. Representatives from several state agencies and school districts fill the remaining positions.

The following is a Reflection from the Chair, list of Panel members, Summaries of meetings and activities, and Recommendations.

Reflection from the Chair

This year as Chair of the Special Education Advisory Panel for the state has been both rewarding and challenging. The panel has more than doubled in size since I first became a member; thanks to the focused result of the executive committee to bring the membership in line with the federal mandate. Next year's panel will be in full compliance. While it was not feasible to move the meeting site to other areas of the state, we were able to include members unable to travel to Boise electronically.

In addition to the regular agenda items this year the SEAP also assisted in preparing for as well as reviewing the OSEP state Improving Results visit and findings. This gave us an additional opportunity to view the intended importance of the SEAP. I want to thank all members for their attendance, participation and the combined effort to move forward for the betterment of all children with disabilities in the state of Idaho. I especially want to recognize and thank Dr. Keith Allred for his in depth analysis of the parent survey, as this required many additional hours.

It has definitely been my pleasure to serve as chair of such a professional group of individuals as those that serve on SEAP. I look forward to continuing in a supportive role in the coming year. It is my feeling that SEAP is now in a position to function as intended, fully representative of Idaho's population of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities.

Judy Randleman, 2011 - 2012 SEAP Chair
Education Director, Southern Idaho
Northwest Children's Home

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Membership List 2011-2012

First Name	Last Name	Term	Email Address	Representation
Keith	Allred	2011-2014	keithallred1@boisestate.edu	Higher Education
Dalene	Banks	2011-2014	banksd@msd281.org	Parent Local Education
Alicia	Caiola	2012-2015	Alicia.Caiola@idjc.idaho.gov	Juvenile Corrections
Beth	Eloe-Reep	2011-2014	eloebeth@isu.edu	Parent State Education
Thomas	Falash	2009-2012	tfalash@idoc.idaho.gov	Adult Corrections Parent
Donna	Farmer	2011-2014	dfarmer@hevanet.com	Parent Program Administrator
Robin	Greenfield	2011-2014	rgreen@uidaho.edu	Program Administrator Higher Education
Margaret	Gross	2011-2014	mgross@casey.org	Teacher Transition Services
Nanna	Hanchett	2012-2015	nanna.hanchett@vr.idaho.gov	Transition Services
Amanda	Holloway	2010-2013	Amanda.Holloway@icdd.idaho.gov	Parent Agency Related Services
Casey	Moyer	2009-2012	moyerc@dhw.idaho.gov	Agency Related Services
Judy	Randleman	2009-2012	jadrand@msn.com	Private School
Jodi	Schilling	2009-2012	jschilling@fruitlandschools.org	Parent Teacher
Karen	Seay	2009-2012	kjseay@sde.idaho.gov	State Education Homeless
Kevin	Swearingen	2011-2014	kevin.swearingen.83274@hotmail.com	Consumer
Miren	Unsworth	2011-2014	unswortm@dhw.idaho.gov	Foster Care
Therese	Varela	2011-2014	therese@disabilityrightsidoaho.org	Parent Transition Services
Jodi	Schilling	2009-2012	jschilling@fruitlandschools.org	Parent Teacher
Karen	Seay	2009-2012	kjseay@sde.idaho.gov	State Education Homeless
Kevin	Swearingen	2011-2014	kevin.swearingen.83274@hotmail.com	Consumer
Miren	Unsworth	2011-2014	unswortm@dhw.idaho.gov	Foster Care

Therese Varela	2011-2014	therese@disabilityrightsidaho.org	Parent Transition Services
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Panel Meetings and Activities

SEAP Executive Committee Meeting

June 7, 2011 – 2 SEAP Members and 2 SDE Staff Members present

Reviewed Executive Committee Roles based on the Bylaws.

Decision was made to shorten the contents of SEAP meeting minutes by documenting action items/summary, rather than lengthy meeting minutes.

It was agreed to keep panel meetings limited to 1 day, rather than 2 days.

Current SEAP membership was discussed.

New Member applications were reviewed and follow-up activities assigned prior to submitting recommendations for appointment to the SEAP. The required membership proportion was considered.

A New Member Orientation Planning was scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

The 2011-2012 Meeting Agendas and Schedules will be discussed at the August 17th New Member Orientation Planning meeting.

Suggestions:

- Matt suggested topics to discuss at 2011-2012 SEAP meetings. Examples: Indicator 8, Secondary Transition, Early Childhood, and Committee of Practitioners.
- Judy suggested holding meetings in other areas of the state.
- Judy would like to encourage some attendance at the meetings from the public.
- Matt suggested sending SEAP agendas out to other organizations to increase awareness of SEAP, to increase outside comments and attendance, and to increase interest in SEAP membership.

The New Member Orientation was scheduled for September 14.

New Member Orientation Planning Meeting

August 17, 2011– 3 SEAP Members and 3 SDE Staff Members present

Meeting minutes were discussed, and it was decided to pare down the meeting minutes to be a summary of topics, action items, and decisions with links to presentations and handouts.

It was decided to meet September 14th to provide feedback for answering the survey questions to prepare for the OSEP Review. Participants will be the Executive Committee, returning members, Rich, and Matt.

There is an Idaho Training Clearinghouse (ITC) webpage available to SEAP. Presentation materials could be posted on this ITC site. While the meeting minutes and agendas could remain on the SEAP website, the meeting minutes could point to the ITC site for the presentation documents and handouts.

Face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings were discussed. Using webinars available through ITC, SEAP meetings could be recorded and archived. Rich commented that video conferencing will be available soon through ITC.

The New Member Orientation PowerPoint slides were reviewed:
A SEAP binder, including the SEAP Primer, will be prepared for all members as part of the orientation.

Meeting Dates and Agenda Items for the coming year were set.

Tuesday, **September 13, 2011**, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

SEAP Executive Committee and Panel Members(returning)

Location: LBJ Building, Executive Conference Room

Agenda: SAP survey for OSEP visit

Wednesday, **September 14**, 2011, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

SEAP All-Panel Meeting& New Member Orientation

Location: JRW Building, East Conference Room

Agenda: New Member Orientation, Meeting Norms, Manual, Annual Report, OSEP

Parent/SEAP Survey

Thursday, **January 19, 2012**, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

SEAP All-Panel Meeting

Location: TBD

Agenda: SPP/APR, OSEP Review, Technology Task Force

Thursday, **April 19, 2012**, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

SEAP All-Panel Meeting

Location: TBD

Agenda: Elections

Fall Meetings

September 13, 2011– 4 SEAP Members and 2 SDE Staff Members present

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT VISIT STATE ADVISORY PANEL SURVEY
PART B of IDEA

The Survey was to be a summary of SEAP member's comments. The survey was completed by the returning members and shared with the new panel members, with a window for feedback, prior to sending to the review team for their Idaho visit.

September 14, 2011– 15 SEAP Members, 2 SDE Staff Members and 2 guests present

Orientation for Panel Members was presented to the entire group. Rich completed the presentation with information about the Statewide Special Education Technical Assistance (SESTA) and the Idaho Training Clearinghouse (ITC) links to special education training opportunities.

Rich gave an overview of the reorganization of SDE for SEAP members. Numerous topics related to SEAP were discussed. Items to be considered in the future are: Performance Indicators, Secondary IEPs and Transitions, SAM Year 1 PIRs, and Fiscal Monitoring.

The SEAP Membership manual, *as well* as the brochures/handouts included in the manual was reviewed.. Members will bring their manuals to each SEAP meeting. Handouts distributed at meetings will be stored in the binders.

SEAP answers for OSEP were reviewed, as well as how SDE will be addressing issues. Jodi suggested SEAP members gather additional feedback now, rather than later. Judy directed the Panel to break to review the SEAP answers on their own. There were no additions/corrections to the answers. Rich recommended action plans based on the answers. Matt led discussion on action items and areas to focus on for the January 2012 SEAP meeting:

- Need 51% parents on panel.
- GS1 Noncompliance – Indicator 15.
- Grants (GS5 Implementation of Grant Assurances)
- Fiscal management (FS1 Distribution, FS2 Allowable Use of Funds)

After reviewing the Analysis of Parent Survey Data Addressing Part B SPP/APR Indicator #8, it was suggested SEAP look into improvements in how the survey is generated. The low percentage of survey responses is due to inaccurate contact/address information and the fact that it is a mail-in survey.

Action Item:

Rich recommended Keith Allred review the survey in depth and report to SEAP his impressions in our January SEAP meeting. Keith agreed.

Members discussed the need to be an active panel in order to make a difference. Handouts will be available prior to meetings increase productivity.

Winter Meeting

January 19, 2012 – 11 SEAP Members, 2 SDE Staff Members, 4 Presenters and 2 guests present or on conference calls

Alicia Caiola replaced Glenda Rohrbach representing Juvenile Corrections and Nanna Hanchett replaced Bruce Christopherson for Transition Services.

OSEP Visit 2011

The OSEP visit for SDE (December 5-8, 2011) consisted of Compliance Verification (3 days) and Results Work (1 day).

At this time the results are unofficial, but the next steps involve correcting items from the OSEP visit, working on state MOE discussions, incorporating stakeholder input into the Results plan, and merging Platform Audit and OSEP findings.

Growth Model

Information on the Colorado Growth Model, calculating growth, school and district reporting, and Idaho's accountability system was given. Rich also showed the 1-5 Star Rating system for Districts and Schools to promote accountability. Rich and Dr. Miller want to take the Growth Model and plug Idaho districts into the chart to see how they are doing.

Action Item:

Rich requested SEAP's input/comments/feedback on the Idaho Growth Model draft proposal in relation to SWD.

ESEA and IDEA (OSEP Call 01-11-12)

The strategies relate to College and Career Ready; State Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support; and Supporting Effective Instruction & Leadership. They are under peer review by CCSSO. The ESEA Waiver does not change IDEA. USDOE/OSEP are changing IDEA Part B Indicators.

Questions/Comments

- Keith asked for clarification on "Needs to be incorporated into teacher training/teacher evaluations." Rich agreed the State needs to be explicit on the plan to do this.
- Per Nanna's question on "Increasing Levels of Intervention", Rich commented there needs to be a process on how students move into increasing levels of support.

Monitoring and Compliance Overview

Dr. Richard O'Dell, SDE SPED Quality Assurance and Reporting Coordinator

The panel reviewed the entire report and Dr. O'Dell discussed the trends that are appearing.

Dispute Resolution Update

Dr. Melanie Reese, SDE Dispute Resolution Coordinator

Dr. Reese reviewed the current numbers involving Hearings, Complaints, Mediations, and Facilitations. She requested SEAP approval to reset the goal for successful mediation. After a discussion, **the SEAP members gave approval to reset the goal to the Federal Recommended Range of 75-85% for 2012.** There was also discussion on how to promote dispute resolution services to schools/parents.

Indicator #8 – Parent Survey

Dr. Keith Allred, Associate Professor & Chair, BSU Dept. of Special Education & ECS

Dr. Allred presented his research of Indicator #8 Parent Involvement on the 2011 Parent Survey. He would like to make Indicator #8 more useful to parents/schools and to increase the response rate of the survey, resulting in a better sample size. Keith encouraged an ongoing discussion about the parent survey to continue.

Overview of IDEA Part B Funding

Lester Wyer, SDE Funding and Accountability Coordinator

Lester reviewed IDEA Part B Funding 101. He answered questions from the panel.

Idaho ESEA Flexibility Presentation

Rich Henderson, SDE Special Education Director

The panel reviewed Idaho's ESEA Flexibility Application - Executive Summary. Keith asked what the implications were to students with disabilities. He wanted to review the entire application before being able to make a recommendation. Donna agreed. Keith also believed a primary issue with special education was the mandate that all students must take a college entrance exam. Another issue was using ISAT as the measure of growth for all students.

Rich said Idaho's attempt is a step to mitigate current laws with NCLB. The idea that all students be included is what we have right now. Beth is on the graduation committee and said there are steps to follow, and there will be exceptions. There will be a mechanism in place for the IEP team to determine whether or not a student would take a college entrance exam. And, for a student taking alternate assessment, Rich mentioned there is a mechanism in place to determine if student should take the ACT/SAT.

Judy commented that SEAP can make a general statement, but not fully endorse since the panel has not yet read the document.

Rich clarified the SEAP meetings are open to the public to attend, but the SEAP meetings are not public meetings.

Spring Meeting

April – 11 SEAP Members, 2 SDE Staff Members, 3 Presenters and 2 guests present

Rich reviewed the Annual State Application under Part B (Form 9055), and he covered the Proposed Uses of Funds sheet. It is a function of SEAP to be aware of federal funds allotments. Members were encouraged to contact Rich or Lester Wyer if they had questions or concerns that were not answered at the meeting.

Final Determination of OSEP Visit

Critical Element 1: Identification of Noncompliance

- OSEP Conclusion: The State does not have a general supervision system to identify noncompliance in a timely manner.

Districts will be allowed 1 year to self-correct using our system. Corrections need to be systematic and individual. We will shift how we monitor; year 1 cannot be a self-assessment year. Looking at a 5-year system.

- Regarding 60-day timeline, districts load data into ISEE, and ISEE needs to report on the data so we can understand it.

- Regarding data errors and issuing notice of non-compliance, we need to first correct our processes and address data issues.

- Supt. Luna has decided to hire 18 new positions to deal with IT issues.

Critical Element 2: Correction of noncompliance

- OSEP Conclusion: The State does not have a general supervision system to correct noncompliance in a timely manner.

- OSEP uses 2-prong approach. Prong 1 is systematic by verifying data is correct. Prong 2 is fixing data if data issue.

- Idaho needs to improve on systematic data corrections. We are developing steps to verify system data using 3 sample districts of different sizes. It is in draft form, and OSEP needs to approve. There is a change in practice to meet the 90-day timeline from discovery to notice. Also need to increase time spent on Child Count Verification.

Critical Element 3: Dispute Resolution

- Melanie Reese has a system in place of tracking days for convening resolution sessions after a due process complaint is received. However, the State needs to have a procedure to issue findings of noncompliance and to ensure correction of noncompliance as soon as possible.

Critical Element 4: Data Systems

- Idaho meets the requirements of having a data system to collect and report data (ISEE). No required actions.

Critical Element 5 : Implementation of Grant Assurances

- We have procedures in place to implement grant application assurances. We need to develop fiscal monitoring policy and procedure. Lester is in the process of training districts.

Other

- When the state submits IDEA budget, we need to know the dollar amount that is expended on SWDs, and it needs to be in the system. That is a discussion between Deputy Superintendent of Federal Programs Nick Smith and Superintendent Tom Luna on how to proceed.

- OSEP has changed requirements for MOE. We are working with districts to maintain their MOE related to cuts, so they don't lose the dollars the students need. We are recommending districts make one time changes, rather than personnel changes.

OSEP is still in the re-designing process for their state review procedures. We expect more guidance from the Fall conference.

SWD and the ISAT, Growth Model and Smarter Balanced

Wendy St. Michell, SDE Director – Assessment, 21st Century Classroom

The timeline for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is: 2012-13 pilot testing, 2013-14 field testing, 2014-15 full implementation, 2015-16 ongoing research and evaluation. Wendy is working with a group on a draft of categories which will change and be imbedded in Assessments.

There was concern expressed for those students that find testing extremely frustrating and the inability of IEP teams to determine testing exclusions.

Parental Participation in Parent Surveys

Dr. Keith Allred, Associate Professor & Chair, BSU Dept. of Special Ed & ECS

Parent Surveys are sound, and results are reliable and valid. But are results useful?

Because of confidentiality, we don't know respondents, (e.g., where they live), which makes it difficult to generalize across the spectrum.

There was much discussion over this on-going issue.

Action Item

Casey – Moved to make a recommendation to have SDE SPED collaborate with IPUL for development of an Indicator 8 survey to include the goals of (1) increasing response rate, (2) incorporating demographic information, (3) obtaining useful data for dissemination to districts as well as meeting SDE and OSEP requirements, and (4) exploring fiscal responsible data analysis options. Motion approved by panel.

Graduation Requirements College Entrance Exams for SWD

Alison Lowenthal, SDE SPED Secondary Transition Coordinator

The decision to exempt a student on an IEP from the College Exam Requirement can occur: After the College Board determines accommodations would give a non-reportable score (for students taking ISAT) or When the IEP team decides the student will be exempt from this requirement (ONLY for students taking ISAT-Alt).

Questions/Comments

- Keith – Is there is a Q&A for parent? Alison – Yes, it is on the Assessment website, but it is not a hardcopy.
- Judy – **Recommended** this discussion be continued in the September meeting.
- Donna – Is there a plan for training teachers? Rich – Yes. Alison – There has been training for adult services with component similar to ISAT accommodation.

Rich – **Suggested** there be a 30 minute training webinar on this subject for after school training.

Annual Performance Report (APR)

Dr. Richard O'Dell, SDE Quality Assurance & Reporting Coordinator
Data collection platform is being rebuilt – due date June 30

Recommendations

The Special Education Advisory Panel,

- Recommends the electronic participation always be available to members unable to travel.
- Requests handouts be available prior to meeting as much as possible to increase productivity at the meeting.
- Advised the SDE Dispute Resolution Coordinator to reset the state goal inline with the Federal Recommendation range of 75 – 85% for 2012.
- Made a general statement in favor of the ESEA Flexibility Application, but did not fully endorse due to lack of details on the implementation steps.
- Requests the dollar amount expended on students with disabilities.
- Will continue to monitor the OSEP compliance issues as the process is re-designed.
- Recommends the SDE (Special Education) collaborate with IPUL for development of an Indicator 8 survey to include the goals of (1) increasing response rate, (2) incorporating demographic information, (3) obtaining useful data for dissemination to districts as well as meeting SDE and OSEP requirements, and (4) exploring fiscal responsible data analysis options
- Will continue discussion of the Graduation Requirement of College Entrance Exams for students with disabilities.